



NEWS RELEASE

Media Contact:

Ricardo Santiago
Public Information Officer
213-974-3525
RSantiago@da.lacounty.gov
Twitter: @LADAOoffice

Aug. 13, 2014

Man Charged with Carjacking, Kidnapping and More in Pacific Palisades Crime Spree

A 44-year-old transient was charged today with more than a dozen criminal offenses – including kidnapping and carjacking – for an alleged crime spree in Pacific Palisades, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced.

Brian Thomas Cruz (dob 12/13/69) faces 19 counts in case SA088296. The defendant was expected to be arraigned this afternoon but the hearing has been continued for tomorrow morning in Department 144 of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, Airport Branch.

Cruz is charged with four felony counts of assault with a deadly weapon, an automobile; three counts of carjacking; two counts each of first-degree burglary, person present, second-degree robbery, criminal threats, reckless driving causing specified injury, a bone fracture; and one count each of kidnapping and false imprisonment by violence.

Cruz also is charged with two misdemeanor counts of hit-and-run driving with allegations that a knife was used. The complaint additionally includes prior conviction allegations for residential burglary, robbery and forcible rape between 1989 and 1995.

On Aug. 11, Cruz went into a woman's home and forced her at knifepoint to drive him in her car, which she deliberately crashed so she could run away, prosecutors said.

The defendant went on to carjack a second woman, a teacher near Palisades High School, ramming the stolen car against several other vehicles, prosecutors added.

He then abandoned the teacher's vehicle and entered a home where he allegedly forced a third woman to surrender her car keys. Cruz crashed that victim's car against other vehicles before running a red light and colliding against a car near Webb Way in Malibu, according to prosecutors.

The recommended bail is \$2.85 million. If convicted as charged, Cruz may face a possible life sentence.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department, West Los Angeles Division.

#

About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to seeking justice for victims of crime and enhancing public safety. Last year, the [Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#) prosecuted more than 73,000 felony defendants and 113,000 misdemeanor defendants.